

## 2013 QUILT ACTIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### From the President

Just like the various fabric patches of a quilt highlight different colors, patterns and textures, each regional network reflects the diversity and the unique qualities found in different parts of the country and the different institutions that a particular network serves. Yet all regional patches must be stitched together seamlessly, coherently and interoperably to serve a larger purpose and community. Based on The Quilt participants' combined experiences in operations and development of leading-edge technologies, The Quilt aims to influence the national agenda on IT infrastructure, with particular emphasis on networking for research and education. Through this coalition, The Quilt promotes delivery of networking services at lower cost, higher performance, and greater reliability and security. Thank you for your continued support of The Quilt. The activities and accomplishments of the organization this year truly reflect the nature of our member-led and member-powered organization. Next year will no doubt present a number of new challenges and opportunities for our members. We look forward to continuing our work together to collectively advance networking for research and education.

Jen Leasure  
President and CEO

### BY THE NUMBERS



R&E NETWORKS  
NATIONWIDE



AFFILIATES



OUR MEMBERS CONNECT  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
INSTITUTIONS



OUR MEMBERS  
CONNECT  
K-12 SCHOOLS



### OUR FOCUS

- Be the trusted forum where members engage with one another
- Advocate for regional networks as key partners
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas and leverage the collective expertise and buying power of members

SUPPORTING ADVANCED REGIONAL  
NETWORKING IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

# A TRUSTED FORUM

The Quilt continues to be a vibrant community where Quilt member leaders and staff come together in a trusted forum to engage with one another. The Quilt gathered more than 200 individuals at its in-person forums this year, including representatives of Quilt member organizations as well as colleagues from other community partner organizations. These meetings provide invaluable networking opportunities for our Quilt member staff to engage with one another and share ideas and experiences that help to advance our community as a whole. These forums briefed members on specific topics, offered engaging panel discussions, and provided collective learning opportunities for those ready to

“My organizational responsibilities require me to be very selective about the conferences I attend throughout the year. The Quilt meetings always prove to be the most productive use of my time away from the office by providing me with the opportunity to interact with my peers and learn what I need to know and pay attention to support my statewide R&E community.”

Scott Taylor, Executive Director,  
Connecticut Education Network  
The Quilt Board of Directors

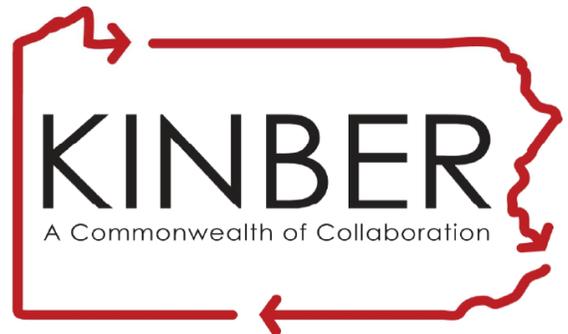


Photo (left to right) - Ron Hutchins, Georgia Institute of Technology/Southern Crossroads, Nick Feamster, Georgia Institute of Technology

take action on topics such as advanced networking for research, 100G networking capabilities, best practices in communication and outreach, expanding R&E networking to health care, network performance, above-the-net services, and statewide R&E identity and access management federations. The CEO Round Table is the principal forum where executive leadership from Quilt membership and other R&E networking organizations engage with peers in-person and via monthly calls to discuss opportunities and challenges from an executive's perspective.

## WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER

KINBER, the organization that owns and operates the Pennsylvania Research and Education Network, joined The Quilt in fall 2011 as an Associate while it was developing its organization and network as a recipient of a BTOP grant. With the completion of the network and further development of the organization, The Quilt is pleased to welcome KINBER as its newest member.



### Professional Development

In 2013, The Quilt's professional development efforts funded travel for 8 up-and-coming leaders in our Quilt member organizations to join our in-person meetings. This Quilt's travel grant program over the last several years has been an important opportunity for this blossoming leaders to be exposed to national community's discussions and grow their individual professional networks.

“Thanks to my attendance at the Quilt meeting, I have a deeper understanding of both technical concerns and trends that are facing RONS across the nation, including disaster recovery, mobile device security, and the security challenges of moving “big data.” Connecting with other communications and outreach professionals will continue to be invaluable to me in the future.”

Susan Mantey, OARnet

# ADVOCATE FOR QUILT MEMBERS

## BTOP Achievements

For the past 3+ years, The Quilt convened a forum to support organizations within our R&E networking community which received NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant funding for comprehensive community infrastructure projects. This forum served as an information source and peer support group from completing grant applications to build-out to close-out of the projects. The success of our R&E network community involvement in BTOP infrastructure projects raised the visibility of the Quilt members to federal agencies such as the Dept. of Commerce and the FCC. This success has positioned R&E networks to be trusted advisors to policy-makers on national broadband policy and programs to connect K-12 schools and libraries.

**8** Quilt Member BTOP CCI Recipients:  
Almost **13,000** new, upgraded or leased fiber miles. More than **4,000** new and upgraded community anchor institutions connections

**3** Quilt Member BTOP CCI Sub-recipients:  
More than **5,200** new, upgraded or leased fiber miles and **700** new and upgraded community anchor institutions connections

## One Voice for E-Rate

The Quilt was active in tracking and commenting on national telecommunications policy related to the FCC E-Rate Proceeding released in July. In fall 2013, The Quilt, along with executive leaders from four of its member organizations, met with Federal Communications Commission, White House and National Telecommunications Information Agency staff to advocate the important role of R&E networks as strategic partners in serving the K-12 community and emphasize the data and recommendations presented in The Quilt E-Rate NPRM comments.

"UEN is excited about the opportunity to partner with NOAA to connect its research sites in the state to the Utah Education Network. With limited staff resources to respond to the bid documents and proposed contract language in the tight time frames required of the bidding process, having access to the resources The Quilt collected and compiled from other Quilt members along with tips for responding to the N-Wave bid documents saved our organization countless hours of technical staff and legal time in developing the response to the NOAA bid request."

Dennis Sampson, Utah Education Network

NOAA continues to expand its N-Wave network to include additional research sites across the country through connections with the regional R&E networks. By leveraging the experience of regional networks with N-Wave agreements, The Quilt has compiled a collection of contract language and tips for responding to N-Wave bid solicitations in order to save members time and resources as well as smooth the process for a national research partner such as NOAA to work with our networking community.

## National Engagement

The Quilt was very active this year in our national and international community of advanced networking for research and education. We committed resources to the support, planning, and Quilt member participation for several national conferences. Two such events were the Advanced Regional Network Big Data Workshop and the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition Workshop both held in Washington D.C. in the spring.

# PROMOTE QUILT MEMBER ABOVE-THE-NET SERVICES

## Quilt Partners with AirWatch

The Quilt's partnership with AirWatch this year brings unmatched domain and industry expertise to our schools and universities to embrace the changing mobile landscape. Quilt members and their Authorized Quilt Buyers benefit from the flexibility of the partnership which enables the purchase of mobile device management solutions directly from AirWatch at an additional discount or to access AirWatch solutions through a Quilt member hosted solution.

### Quilt-InCommon Pilot Program

The Quilt-InCommon Pilot Program launched this year is an outcome of February's Quilt-InCommon Workshop. With the participation of eight regional network organizations, the pilot program will explore the opportunities and challenges deploying federated access solutions on local policies, technical environments, and business processes. Experiences from these pilots will create easier, more secure, and improved privacy-preserving methods of accessing protected cloud services available to all participants.

"The pilots are being conducted in partnership with the advanced regional networks supporting research and education. Our hope is that this first round of pilots will provide important case studies and best practices that will help build secure trust frameworks for community colleges and K-12 schools as they ramp-up their access to outsourced services."

George Laskaris  
CEO of New Jersey's Higher Education Network  
The Quilt Board of Directors

### Quilt Member Services Workshop

More than 30 representatives from 22 member organizations gathered in Atlanta for our above-the-net services workshop in October. Goals of the workshop included understanding the financial aspects of providing services, and identifying candidates to target for Quilt consortium contracting opportunities.



### Internet2's NET+ Partner Program

Through a letter of encouragement, The Quilt demonstrated its support for the development of Internet2's NET+ Partner Program, giving regional networking organizations the opportunity to provide Internet2's national above-the-net service portfolio to other community institution segments. This will be an important, complementary component to the on-going strategy to offer a suite of above-the-net services to a broad set of R&E network community members.

# LEVERAGE MEMBER EXPERTISE, COLLECTIVE INTERESTS AND BUYING POWER

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## OpenFlow Webinar Series

With our portfolio of master service agreements with OpenFlow switch vendors created out of the 2012 RFP effort, The Quilt shared market intelligence with the community through a comprehensive comparison of OpenFlow switch features and hosted a series of webinars showcasing its authorized Quilt provider solutions.

## Quilt Peer Review Service

Leveraging the expertise of Quilt member leaders, The Quilt completed its 6th formal peer review with the Utah Education Network this year. The project focused on the network design, network operations and network services offered by the organization.

## On-Going Quilt Member Collaborations

Telepresence. This working group shares experiences and best practices in providing immersive videoconference solutions to the R&E networking community.

Financial Focus Group. From its inception in 2007, this group of chief financial officers and business managers has met regularly to share financial knowledge and promote best practices for the unique needs of the R&E networking community. It is the 'go to' group for all things fiscally driven. The group shares experiences and reports about various topics including, financial report preparation, contract negotiation/management, human resources, and business model analysis.

Commodity Internet Service. Amendments to existing contracts in 2013 resulted in an average 16% decrease in 1Gbps pricing and an 11% decrease in 10Gbps pricing.

## Quilt Affinity Groups Discussions

As our membership grows, The Quilt continues to host smaller affinity group conversations among members based on common interests. Affinity group topics from this year included E-Rate, Outreach and Communication, Common Core Standards, and Unrelated Business Income for Non-Profits. These forums served as the conduits by which The Quilt and its members can inform one another on factors that may influence or impact our R&E networking community.

"There are many times that we are involved in discussions with an industry partner related to videoconferencing solutions and are presented with something that has already been talked about on the Quilt telepresence calls. That provides us with an advantage in those situations and at the same time helps us to filter through the complex and otherwise confusing discussions in order to make better decisions for our institution. We have learned from other members of the group on effective ways to showcase the technology for our campus users so they understand how it can help all of us achieve our institution's educational goals."

James Conyers  
University of Denver

The combined committed bandwidth purchased by Authorized Quilt Buyers under the program grew to 340Gbps in 2013.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE QUILT

**THE QUILT**, a consortium of advanced regional networks, aims to influence the national agenda on information technology infrastructure, with particular emphasis on networking for research and education. Through this coalition, Quilt members collaborate to promote the delivery of networking services at lower cost, higher performance and greater reliability and security.



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